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FEBRUARY 2023

To the Honorable Board Members of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs

Our Commission partnered with the [Ohio State University's Office of Extension](#) and PhD. Candidate Anisa Kline to unveil our most recent Report: "[Latino H2A Workers and Their Importance to Ohio's Agricultural Industries](#)." The report explores the importance of seasonal agricultural workers and how increasing numbers of farm operators are looking to the H-2A program, which provides temporary visas to workers from other countries to work in this industry. Additionally, the report provides an overview of who these guest workers are and how the experience life in Ohio, as well as the insights from farmers who employ this type of worker.

The event included a presentation of the findings by Ms. Kline followed by an expert panel moderated by Director Cavanaugh that included Silvia Hernandez (Starting Point Outreach Center), Dr. Jose Salinas (Ohio Migrant Education Center), Phil Riehm (Riehm's Produce), and Dr. Margaret Jodlowski (Dept. of Agricultural, Environmental and Developmental Economics, OSU). The hybrid event engaged over 50 participants virtually and 30 participants in person.



Activity is picking up during the month of February as we plan for the commission's annual events. Registration has opened for the Hispanic Legislative Visit Day and speakers have been secured. The team is making good progress with logistics and planning, as well as working with potential partners for the event. There were over 100 registrations for this event at the end of February. We have also formalized our work plan with Kent State University for the 2023 Latino Affairs Summit and worked this month to identify, contact and meet with a select group of advisors for each track: education, health, business/workforce development and youth. There were meetings held with each advisory group to review the overall plan for the summit and begin identifying key topics and themes. The staff and planning committee will meet in person at Kent State University in early March. Additionally, a location has been secured for the 2023 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards, to take place on Saturday, October 14, 2023 in Columbus, Ohio. A contract to hold the reservation was secured and approved by our AG for signature.

Health Initiatives:

Work with the Latino Mental Health Navigator Grant continues per schedule. Contract amendments for the extension of the project are being processed and Executive Director Cavanaugh will testify before the Controlling Board in early March to seek approval to utilize the funding received from OhioMHAS to cover the program until the end of FY23 (June 30, 2023.) Technical training continues underway for Navigators and a report is being prepared for OhioMHAS.

The Commission is also playing a key role with the Unaccompanied Minors Network in collaboration with Su Casa in Cincinnati. Our team is assisting Su Casa to reconvene this group that meets monthly to discuss how to best serve the Unaccompanied Minors in Ohio. Invitations to participate in this meeting are being extended to all regions of the state to increase access to vital information. We will continue to provide logistical support and assist with this group, support the identification of speakers and assist with other needs as they arise.

Education:

PPC Officer successfully presented at the TESOL Advocacy workshop in early February.

Workforce and Economic Development:

Community Liaison Mary Grace Sanchez is continuing conversations with the Office of Workforce Transformation in reference to two specific programs: the High School Tech Internship Pilot Program and the Individual Micro-credential Assistance Program. She is working with their communications team to identify content that can be translated into Spanish with the goal of launching a bilingual informational campaign.

Civic Engagement:

Program focus is on the Hispanic Legislative Visit Day. Additionally, PPC Officer Melean has reached out to the offices of Legislative Members of the Board to update them on our Biennial Budget Request and hearing scheduled for March.



Latino Community Report:

Successfully unveiled the “Latino H2A Workers and Their Importance for Ohio’s Agricultural Industries” and distributed it to the General Assembly, Governor’s Office, key state agencies and the public.

The fiscal report is attached for information.

Meetings Attended:

01 Feb—Rachel Careccia & OSU Social Work Advisor Debrief
 01 Feb—Trauma Informed Care Advisory Group
 02 Feb—Behavioral Health Workforce Advisory Council
 03 Feb—Victor Leandry, El Centro de Servicios Social, LMHN Technical Review
 06 Feb—Tracy Plouck, State Health Assessment Review
 06 Feb—Daniel Nilsson, Kent State University, Summit Planning
 06 Feb—OCHLA Board Meeting
 06 Feb—Vista Candidate Enrollment Debrief
 08 Feb—Kronos Phase 8 Onboarding, DAS
 08 Feb—Anisa Klein, OSU
 09 Feb—Ohio Latino Summit Advisory Groups Meeting
 10 Feb—Connie Alexander, Jessica Sutton, DAS
 10 Feb—Elfi Di Bella, CAPA
 13 Feb—Dr. Marilyn Sampilo, Cleveland Clinic
 13 Feb—Visionary Leaders Training, OhioLearn
 13 Feb—Armando Telles
 13 Feb—Josh Vittie, Ohio EMA
 13 Feb—Giovanna Alvarez, Su Casa (Cincinnati)
 14 Feb—Ohio Health Opportunity Office, Ohio Dept. of Health Debrief
 14 Feb—Trauma Informed Care Advisory Group
 14 Feb—Malaika Brewer, OhioMHAS
 15 Feb—nary Leaders Training, OhioLearn
 15 Feb—H2A Migrant Workers Panel and Report Presentation, OSU
 16 Feb—Behavioral Health Workforce Advisory Council
 16 Feb—Mario Basora, CEO Future Ready, Columbus
 16 Feb—Unaccompanied Minors Council
 17 Feb—FALCON
 20 Feb—Daniel Nilsson, Kent State University, Summit Planning
 21 Feb—Harim Ramirez, Miami University, Oxford
 22 Feb—Kronow Phase 8 Debrief, DAS
 22 Feb—Mr. Ron Todd, Dept. of Development
 22 Feb—Americorps Vista Quarterly Call
 24 Feb—Lynanne Gutierrez, GroundworkOhio.org
 27 Feb—Dr. Marilyn Sampilo, Debrief
 27 Feb—Ron Ross, Psychology Board Executive Director, Jessica Sutton
 27 Feb—Franklin County Equity Advisory Council Meeting
 27 Feb—Dr. Isa Velez Echeverria, Jeanne Pulvermacher, MHTTC



27 Feb—Daniel Nilsson, Kent State University, Summit Planning
 28 Feb—Ohio Americorps Recruitment Training Event

Public Policy Center (PPC) Report

Annabel Meleán, Public Policy Officer

Summary of Successes:

Legislative Update:

- Currently tracking 40 introduced bills from the 135th General Assembly. Provided an update on Governor DeWine's priorities mentioned during the 2023 Ohio State of the State address.
- Produced and distributed the Legislative Updates e-newsletter.

Bill Highlights:

1. Education and Workforce Development

[Senate Bill 1: Revise Education Law and Department duties](#)

[Senate Bill 5: Establish the Workforce Voucher Program](#)

[Senate Bill 11: Enact the Parent Educational Freedom Act](#)

[Senate Bill 14: Expand veteran eligibility to teach without license](#)

[Senate Bill 17: Add capitalism to high school financial literacy standards](#)

2. Health and Safety

[Senate Bill 9: Revise medical marijuana law](#)

[Senate Bill 28: Enter Physician Assistant Licensure Compact](#)

[Senate Bill 33: Require Medicaid applicant certify knowledge of estate recovery](#)

[House Bill 38: All school districts to permit students to take up to three mental health days](#)

[Senate Bill 60: To license certified mental health assistants](#)

[Senate Bill 61: To cap cost sharing prescription insulin drugs](#)

3. Politics and Government

[Senate Bill 37: To make changes to the laws governing driver's license suspensions](#)

[Senate Bill 71: Election Records- to enact the Data Analysis Transparency Archive Act](#)

[House Joint Resolution 1: Require a vote of at least 60% of electors to approve a change to the Ohio Constitution](#)

4. Business, Commerce, and Labor

[Senate Bill 2: Authorize subdivisions to designate tax exempt residential zones](#)

[Senate Bill 3: Create Ohio Community Revitalization Program](#)

[Senate Bill 12: Regards veteran-owned Business enterprise certification program](#)

[Senate Bill 30: Allow person under 16 to work after 7 p.m. during the school year](#)

[Senate Bill 31: Establish executive oversight on Unemployment Compensation Programs](#)

[Senate Bill 39: To exempt certain baby products from sales and use tax](#)

Networking and representation of the Commission:

- Participated in meetings with the Ohio Department of Education related to Limited English Learners.
- The Public Policy Officer attended a roundtable discussion hosted by U.S. Attorney Kenneth L. Parker and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Department of Justice and Civil Rights



Division to discuss an agreement made between Park National Bank, and the U.S. Attorney General to resolve lending discrimination claims in Columbus, Ohio made towards African-American and Hispanic families. The commission will be working with the Attorney General's office to assist in the Combating Redlining Initiative, and to make sure Hispanic families in Columbus, Ohio are receiving credit lending and financial literacy resources from Park National Bank.

- Represented the Commission in the Broadband Ohio Digital Opportunity Summit. The event hosted by BroadbandOhio and the National Digital Inclusion Alliance on Feb. 16 provided an opportunity to learn about local, state and national efforts to close the digital divide for all Ohioans. BroadbandOhio is a division of the Ohio Department of Development, working to ensure every Ohioan has access to high-speed internet, regardless of where they live and work.

- Lauren Gonzalez, contractor with the Commission, represented OCHLA at the OSU Moritz Law School Table Talk, where she engaged with law students interested in interning with the Commission for the Fall of 2023.

Presentations:

- The Public Policy Officer presented at a TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Advocacy workshop on Saturday February 4th. The workshop provided an educational overview on relevant policy that impacts English Learners, how to advocate in government spaces, and have a facilitated conversation on challenges and success faced by English Learners in the school system.

- The Public Policy Officer along with Director Cavanaugh helped support the presentation of the Latino Community Report on Latino H2A Workers, in collaboration with the OSU Extension Center, and Ph.D. candidate Anisa Kline. Stakeholders and Ohio legislators that had districts with high populations of H2A Visa Workers were identified and invited to attend the in person and virtual presentation. Additionally, the Latino Community Report was shared with all legislators, the Governor's Office and key state agencies.

Hispanic Legislative Visit Day, April 25, 2023:

- Planning continues to progress with all speakers secured for the Hispanic Legislative Visit Day. Registration is open and marketing materials are being shared through social media. Individualized emails are also being sent to target groups within the Latino community. Logistics meetings are currently underway and we will begin working soon on the program booklet. Our team is also working on reaching out to legislative offices to seek appointments for leaders.

Latino Affairs Summit, September 15, 2023:

PPC Officer is working in collaboration with Director Cavanaugh to coordinate the planning with Kent State University. The first planning meeting in person will take place at Kent State University on Friday, March 3rd. Advisory committees for each track have been formed and virtual meetings were held with each group to begin setting priority topics for the summit. Initial conversations regarding logistics, technology and administrative matters are also underway with regular check in meetings scheduled weekly.

Meetings Attended:

2/1: Meeting with Senator Craig Legislative Aide

2/3: TESOL Advocacy Workshop Follow up Meeting

2/3: Ohio Justice Policy Center Intro Meeting

2/6: Ohio Latino Summit Chairs Meeting

2/7: OCHLA Board Meeting

2/8: Latino Community Report OSU Extension Center Follow Up Meeting

2/9: Ohio Latino Summit Health Advisory Group Meeting



2/9: Ohio Latino Summit Education Advisory Group Meeting
2/9: Ohio Latino Summit Business/Workforce Development Group Meeting
2/13: Meeting with Director Cavanaugh and Armando Telles
2/14: Meeting with Jose Colon, Workforce Development Workshop host for Hispanic Legislative Visit Day
2/15: Latino Community Report OSU Extension Panel Presentation
2/16: Broadband Ohio Digital Opportunity Summit
2/16: Unaccompanied Youth Council Meeting
2/17: FALCON Meeting
2/20: Ohio Latino Summit Chairs Meeting
2/22: Whole Child Advisory Group Meeting
2/22: 2/23: Education advocacy agenda follow up meeting with Shayla Davis
2/23: Ohio Department of Education Roadmap to Families for English Learners Committee Meeting
2/23: Ohio Latino Summit Education Advisory Group Follow up Meeting
2/27: Ohio Latino Summit Chairs Meeting
2/28: Apoyo Latino Meeting
2/28: U.S. Attorney General Roundtable Discussion

Latino Community Network (LCN) Report

Mary Grace Sanchez, Community Liaison

Summary of Successes:

Outreach and Social Media:

Launched the Act Early Child Health Campaign and the he Latina Heath Health and Prevention Campaign during the month of February.

Constituent Services:

We continue to receive a regular stream of constituent inquiries almost doubling the amount of cases handled in January.

Building Community Engagement:

The LCN continued participating in community calls and networking meetings, including the Heart Disease in Latina Awareness group, Unaccompanied Minors meeting, and participating in the unveiling of OCHLA's report on H2A Workers hosted at the Office of Extension, Ohio State University.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks & Watercraft to release a Press Release announcing the newly translated Spanish Ohio Boat Operator's Guide. The Press Release has been translated and we are just waiting for approval from their communications department to be released.

Latino Networking Meetings: This month, we were part of the Butler Latino Networking, FALCON, Toledo's Latino Alliance of NW Ohio and Cincinnati's Apoyo Latino.



Special Events:

Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala

We were able to secure the venue for the 2023 DHO Gala and obtain approval from the AG on our contract, which was signed this month. The gala will be held on October 14, 2023 at The Grand Event Center at Grandview Yard. We are reaching out to a potential organization to serve as the fiscal agent for this year's gala as well and more information will be shared in the near future.

Hispanic Legislative Visit Day

LCN Sanchez is assisting PPC Officer Melean with logistics and venue preparations for the Legislative Visit Day.

Job Opportunities Page:

The page has continued to grow and be updated once a week on our website. In January, there were 4 jobs posted and this month we reached 16 jobs. The postings have tripled in a month and will continue to grow as the page gets promoted.

Resource Directories Updates:

The Latino Media List Directory and ESOL Directory were updated this month. We hope to have these uploaded into our website by the following month.

Meetings Attended:

Feb 7 — OCHLA Board Meeting
Feb 8 — Ohio EMPLEO Quarterly Alliance Meeting
Feb 9 — 2023 Ohio Latino Summit-Business/WD Advisory Group
Feb 14 — Mailchimp (Board Meeting)
Feb 15 — Butler County Meeting
Feb 15— Agricultural Guestworkers in Ohio: What We Know and Where We're Going
Feb 16— Venue Contract Review—DHO 2023
Feb 16— Unaccompanied Minors Council
Feb 17 – FALCON Meeting
Feb 17—Heart Disease in Latina Awareness Campaign | TCH, AHA and OCHLA Collaboration
Feb 22—Latino Alliance of Northwest Ohio
Feb 28—Apoyo Latino Meeting



Connecting the Community: Information and Resources

Outlet	Data	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Facebook	Followers	3,000	3,624										
	Reach	5,558	2,980										
	Page Visits	309	274										
Instagram	Followers		1,000										
	Reach	780	636										
	Page Visits	44	92										
	Impressions	1,200	2,400										
Twitter	Followers	1,448	1257										
	Profile Visits	27	1,257										
	Impressions	1,500	3,600										
LinkedIn	Followers	280	286										
OCHLA Website	Visitors	667	842										
	Page Views	2,256	2,539										

Respectfully submitted,





February 2023 Fiscal Report

LATINO AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Account	ALI	Budget Period	Budget	Expense	Encumbrance	Available Budget*	Percent Available	REMARKS
500	148321	2023Q1	69,590.00	62,276.95	0	7,313.05	10.51	Payroll payments on schedule
500	148321	2023Q2	92,855.00	81,571.44	0	11,283.56	12.15	
500	148321	2023Q3	79,590.00	71,148.69	0	8,441.31	10.61	
500	148321	2023Q4	92,855.00	0	0	92,855.00	100	
510	148321	2023	15,000.00	4,749.00	5,297.93	4,953.07	33.02	Contractors amount increased to cover two contractors
520	148321	2023	126,470.00	52,277.98	805.43	73,386.59	58.03	Operating Expenses
520	148602	2023	24,558.00	0	0	24,558.00	100	Rainy fund appropriation, account 6010

LATINO MENTAL HEALTH NAVIGATOR GRANT

500	148602	2023Q1	2,246.00	0	0	2,246.00	100	Funding for FY23 for all accounts related to the grant are on target.
500	148602	2023Q2	2,246.00	0	0	2,246.00	100	
510	148602	2023	87,101.00	36,694.50	19,405.50	31,001.00	35.59	
550	148602	2023	399,012.00	282,600.33	104,703.99	11,707.68	2.93	

Prepared 3/10/2023
L. Cavanaugh

Contractors:
(1) Legislative Visit Day Support
(2) Graphic Designer for Reports